

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium comprising:  
an elongated nonmagnetic support; and  
a single-layered magnetic layer having an orthorhombic structure formed on a main surface of said nonmagnetic support by a vacuum thin film deposition technique,  
wherein,  
said single-layered magnetic layer has a thickness from 40nm to 100nm,  
an H<sub>max</sub>/H<sub>x0</sub> ratio of said magnetic layer is not greater than 1.2, where H<sub>max</sub> is a maximum value of a coercive force of said magnetic layer which acts in a plane perpendicular to said magnetic layer and containing a longitudinal direction of said magnetic recording medium, and H<sub>c0</sub> is a coercive force of said magnetic layer which acts in the longitudinal direction of the magnetic recording medium, and  
said magnetic recording medium is specially adapted for recording and reproduction using a magnetoresistive magnetic transducing head or a giant magnetoresistive magnetic transducing head.
2. (Original) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said coercive force H<sub>c0</sub> is not less than 100 kA/m.
3. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein  $Mr \cdot \delta$ , which is a product of a remanent magnetization Mr and a film thickness  $\delta$  of said single-layered magnetic layer, is within a range expressed by Expression (1), and a signal recorded in said single-layered magnetic layer is reproduced by slide-contact movement of a magnetoresistive magnetic head with respect to said magnetic recording medium:  
$$12 \text{ (mA)} \leq Mr \cdot \delta < 30 \text{ (mA)}. \quad \cdots (1)$$
4. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein  $Mr \cdot \delta$ , which is a product of a remanent magnetization Mr and a film thickness  $\delta$  of said single-layered magnetic layer, is within a range expressed by Expression (2), and a signal recorded in

| said single-layered magnetic layer is reproduced by slide-contact movement of a giant magnetoresistive magnetic head with respect to said magnetic recording medium:

$$3 \text{ (mA)} \leq Mr \cdot \delta < 12 \text{ (mA)}. \quad \cdots (2)$$

5. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ comprising a longitudinal direction and a plurality of tracks ~~are~~ arranged in parallel with one another in the longitudinal direction, ~~and so that~~ recording and reproduction of signals ~~is~~ can be performed by a linear system.

6. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising a protective layer formed on said single-layered magnetic layer.

7. (Original) A magnetic recording medium according to claim 6, wherein said protective layer includes a diamond-like carbon (DLC).